

Dennis, Deborah

From: FOIA
Sent: Friday, August 5, 2016 9:35 AM
To: 'artnoll@gmail.com'
Subject: Fee Estimate for Mr. Noll 2016-TSFO-00413 IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUESTED
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Noll:

This email provides a fee estimate applicable to processing your July 19, 2016, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for "All e-mail correspondence since January 1, 2011, sent or received by current or past TSA Officers based in Atlanta or Charlotte that contain the following culturally sensitive search terms in them (all terms to be searched are within parentheses, not case sensitive): 'nigga,' 'niggaz,' 'niggas,' 'honkey,' 'gook,' 'spic,' 'bitch,' 'bitches,' 'twerk,' 'NSFW,' 'MILF,' 'M.I.L.F.,' 'Nickelback,' 'pussy,' 'titties,' 'twink,' 'kyke,' 'redneck,' 'magic city,' 'charlie sheen,' 'dyke,' 'faggot,' 'fag,' 'queerbait,' 'bukake warrior,' 'trap queen.'"

The FOIA requires agencies to promulgate regulations specifying the schedule of fees applicable to the processing of FOIA requests. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(i) (2000). In addition, the FOIA requires these regulations to provide that such fees be limited depending upon whether 1) records are requested for commercial use; 2) records are sought by an educational institution, noncommercial scientific institutions or representative of the news media; and finally 3) records are requested pursuant to all other requests ("other requests"), which do not fall within the either of the preceding categories. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(ii)(I),(II),(III) (2000). We have determined that your category of requester is "other," and fees associated with your request will be assessed according to the fee guidelines for the "other" fee category.

Pursuant to the DHS implementing regulations, 6 C.F.R. § 5.11(c), fees for search time for "other" requests are assessed by the hourly wage of the personnel filling the request. The fee is \$7.00 for each quarter hour of search time spent by professional personnel such as TSOs. Currently, there are 1,300 TSOs in Atlanta and 530 TSOs in Charlotte. To have 1,830 employees conduct a search of the their emails for a minimum of 4 hours, it is estimated that it would take approximately 7,320 hours. Two of those hours are free, so the total chargeable search time would be 7,318 hours (or 29,272 quarter hours). Billable search costs at \$7.00 per quarter hour would total **\$204,905.00**. Please keep in mind that this does not include 1) a reasonable search by Office of Information Technology (OIT) to locate emails of former TSOs or STSOs since 2011 or 2) the costs for searches by current STSOs in Atlanta or Charlotte. Furthermore, at this time, we do not have an estimate of how many pages of records

this search would produce. However, you will be responsible for the duplication cost as well, at 10-cents a page for duplication, although the first 100 pages are free.

Since the total estimated fee exceeds \$250.00, you must make an advance payment of an amount up to the amount of the entire anticipated fee before we can begin to process your request. See 6 C.F.R. § 5.11(i). Please submit your check or money order in the amount of **\$204,905.00**, made payable to the Treasury of the United States, to this office within 30 days from the date of this email. Please mail your payment to this office at the following address:

The estimated cost for your FOIA request for current TSOs at Atlanta and Charlotte is **\$204,905.00**. If you choose to utilize standard mail, you should mail your check to:

United States Department of Homeland Security
Transportation Security Administration
P.O. Box 530262
Atlanta, GA 30353-0262

Should you choose to utilize overnight delivery, please mail your check to:

Bank of America
United States DHS/TSA
Lockbox Number 530262
1075 Loop Road
Atlanta, GA 30337-6002

In order to be sure your account is credited, you must reference the TSA FOIA Number **(2016-TSFO-00413)** on your check.

In the alternative, you may narrow the scope of your request to reduce the universe of responsive records. If you wish to narrow the scope of your request, please send an amended request and indicate the processing fee amount you are willing to pay within 10 business days from the date of this email. You may send your amended request to the address above, or send it by facsimile to 571-227-1406.

If we do not receive an advance payment of **\$204,905.00** or an amended request from you within thirty **(30)** business days from the date of this letter, we will consider this request withdrawn, and we will administratively close your request file.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this matter, please feel free to contact our office at 1-866-364-2872 or locally at 571-227-2300. Please refer to **2016-TSFO-00413** in all future correspondence.

TSA FOIA Branch

TSA FOIA Branch

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Branch
601 S. 12th Street
Arlington, VA 20598-6020
571-227-2300



Transportation
Security
Administration